(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time frame by which the outstanding amount is likely to be released, State-wise;

(c) the total amount released by Government under the 'Post Birth Grant for Girl Child' during each of the two years and there after in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the funds proposed to be released under this scheme during 2005-06 in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has proposed in the beginning of current financial year, to transfer Balika Samridhi Yojana to the States/UTs. Therefore, no funds have been earmarked for the scheme for 2005-06.

(c) During the year 2003-04 no amount was released. However, 2004-05 total amount of Rs. 3975.08 lakhs were released out of which an amount of Rs. 500.21 lakhs was released to Andhra Pradesh.

(d) No funds are proposed for release during 2005-06.

Children Commissions in States

184. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had asked the State Governments to set up Children Commissions on the pattern of National Children Commission proposed to be set up soon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had decided to strengthen the Integrated Child Development Scheme; and

(d) if so. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Government has recently notified the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 in the Gazette of India on 20th January, 2006 as Act No. 4 of 2006. The Act envisages setting up a National Commission at the National level and the State Commissions at

the State level for Protection of Child Rights, which will be a statutory body with similar provisions for State Commissions in respect of their constitution, reporting, functions and powers as that of the National Commision. States have already been requested for setting up the Commissions at the State level. The salient features of the proposed Child Commissions are available in the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, which is available in the Ministry's website *http:/ www.wcd.nic.in*

(c) and (d) The Scheme was introduced in 1975 in 33 Blocks on an experimental basis. It was gradually expanded to cover 5652 projects till the end of IX Plan. However, to fulfill its commitments contained in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) to universalize the Scheme to provide a functional anganwadi in every settlement and to comply with Supreme Court's directives to increase the number of Anganwadi Centres, the Government has approved expansion of ICDS Scheme to 467 additional projects and 188168 additional AWCs, out of which 456 additional ICDS Projects and 188055 Anganwadi Centres have been sanctioned. With the expansion of the Scheme the total number of projects has increased to 6108 and that of anganwadi centres to about 9.42 lakhs.

The allocation for the Scheme has been increased from Rs. 2167.44 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 3685.30 crore for 2005-06.

Scheme for welfare of women

185. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governement have introduced any new schemes this year for the welfare of women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two schemes have been introduced for the welfare of poor women: